

Customer Focus

The Shermirly Farm is owned and operated by Bill and Troy Varney of Turner, Maine. They milk approximately 150 cows and crop about 350 acres.

In 1998 they were approved for an EQIP contract to build a manure storage. This was the first time they had participated in a cost-shared conservation project. Prior to installing their current manure storage, they were using a transfer pit built by Bill's father in the early 70's and hauling the manure to stacking sites.

Conservation practices in the contract included a manure storage structure, heavy use area protection, roof water management system and a nutrient management plan.

In FY 2001 the Varney's completed a 600,000 gallon earthen manure storage to store 210 days of manure. Manure is pumped from the old transfer pit into a gravity load drop structure. They use the same pump to unload the storage structure in the spring.

"I'm very happy with our storage structure", stated Bill. "It is practical, efficient and fits perfectly into our farm operation. After managing it for a season, there isn't anything I would change."

The Varney's began working with the local Conservation District in 1994 as participants in the Integrated Crop Management 319 grant program. They worked with District staff to do extensive soil testing and pest management. They were able to eliminate the use of off-farm generated poultry manure. This significantly reduced the amount of time and equipment costs to fertilize the crop.

They were chosen as Cooperator of the Year for 2000.

2001 Environmental Quality Incentives Program



Maine Summary

Overview

In Maine, strong interest and participation in the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) continued through FY 2001. Animal waste management and water quality continue to be the priority resource issues being addressed with EQIP funds. Applications requesting federal cost-share funds totaling over \$2.5 million dollars were submitted by 214 landowners. The Maine FY 2001 allocation for financial assistance was about \$1,603,600. This is a shortfall of about \$1 million to meet current client needs. NRCS staff and our partners developed and approved 152 EQIP conservation plans and contracts.

Accomplishments

EQIP financial assistance was distributed in Maine through 8 Geographic Priority Areas (GPA) and 4 statewide Natural Resource Concern (NRC) projects. About \$1,082,500 in EQIP Federal cost-share dollars were obligated in GPAs and \$520,925 obligated in NRC projects. FY 2001 EQIP conservation plans and contracts covered nearly 11,800 acres throughout the State. About 4,000 clients were provided assistance associated with EQIP in Maine as reported in PRMS.

Outlook

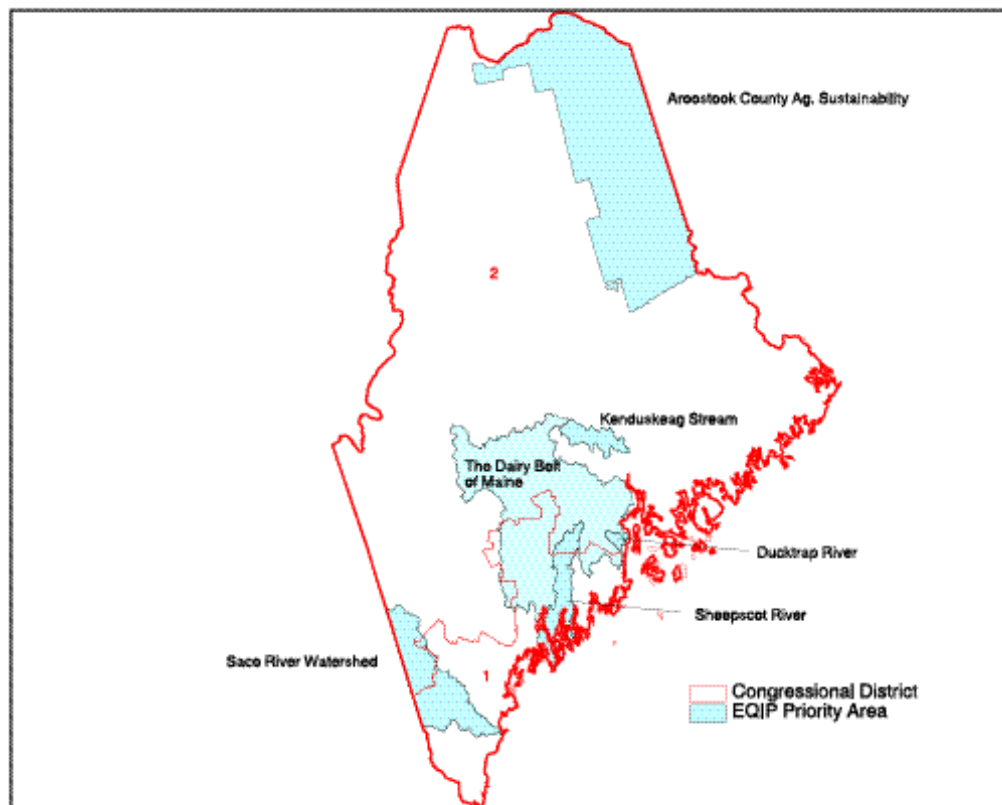
The demand for both technical and financial assistance under EQIP is very strong in Maine. The State has passed nutrient management legislation that is compelling livestock producers to manage agricultural waste more carefully. This should keep demand for waste management facilities very high. The listing of the Atlantic Salmon as an endangered species in 8 Downeast rivers will likely increase demand for NRCS assistance as landowners cope with impacts on critical habitat. Substantial increases in funding will be needed to meet the real demand in both of these areas.

State Contact

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Maine EQIP Priority Areas Within Congressional Districts



Maine EQIP Dollars and Contracts by Congressional Districts

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2001		Cumulative Total (97-01)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1	\$320,825	21	\$1,827,290	161
District 2	\$1,179,975	131	\$7,171,636	801
State Totals	\$1,500,800	152	\$8,998,926	962

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